THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5728. *Friday, May* 1, 1840. *Price* 1*d*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer*.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

YESTERDAY evening *Richelieu*, *How to Pay the Rent*, and *Hobbs, Dobbs and Stubbs* were performed here. A new Farce by Bernard, entitled *The Irish Attorney; or, Fifty Years ago*, will be produced here on Wednesday next.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

SHAKSPEARE was commanded by Queen Elizabeth to "shew *Falstaff* in love." The bard observed the Royal mandate, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was presented to the world, a very amusing Play, full of nature, character, and humour, but in complying with his Royal mistress's request, the author has exhibited the fat Knight, who is the hero of the Play, in no very enviable light. *Falstaff*, in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, is not the man he was in the two parts of *Henry IV*. His wit and eloquence have left him. Instead of making a butt of others, he is made a butt by them. Neither is there a single particle of love in him to excuse his follies; he is merely a designing bare-faced knave, and an unsuccessful one. The scene with *Ford*, as *Master Brook*, and that with *Simple*, *Slender's* man, who comes to ask after the Wise Woman, are almost the only ones in which his old intellectual ascendancy appears. But the single scene with *Doll Tearsheet*, or *Mrs. Quickly's* account of his desiring "to eat some of housewife Keach's prawns," and telling her to "be no more so familiar with such people," is worth the whole of this Play put together. Mr. Bartley is generally understood to be a stout man, but every stout man cannot represent a great man. The Knight was fat, so is the player—here the comparison ends. There is no sympathy in mind, in wit, parts, or discretion. His body did not weigh down his wit, little as he has apportioned to him in *The Merry Wives*, compared to the other Plays we have quoted. Not to speak harshly, however, of Mr. Bartley's *Falstaff*, we will say he gave satisfaction to his audience in the part, and that we do not know any one on the stage (now that poor Dowton is past his meridian,) who can perform the character so well as Mr. Bartley did last night, when the piece was revived.

Charles Mathews played *Slender*, for the first time, and did justice to that potent piece of imbecility. His scenes with "sweet *Ann Page*" (delightfully played by Miss Rainforth,) were highly amusing. The husbands, *Page* and *Ford*, were well represented by Diddear and Cooper, and the wives most prettily portrayed by Madame Vestris and Mrs. Nisbett. One great feature of the evening was the exquisite execution of Horne's music. Harrison, who played *Fenton*, gave with great feeling the beautiful air, "Blow, blow thou wintry wind," and sang with great applause the duet

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with Miss Rainforth, "Cup d is a teazing lad." Madame Vestris's When daisies pied" was delightful. *Doctor Caius* was played by J. Bland laughably enough, but he wants a few lessons in French. The Welsh parson, Sir Hugh Evans, found a good representative in Meadows. The duel scene with *Caius*, in which he shows his "cholers and tremblings of mind," was irresistable, and made the house roar with laughter. Mrs. C. Jones plays the *Dame Quickly* as well as she performs the same character in *Henry the Fifth*. The scenery of the Play gained great applause—two or three of the scenes are very beautifully painted. *The Sleeping Beauty* concluded.—The house was well attended.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll'd to Madame TUSSAUD's elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st., Portman Sq.—Just added to their unrivalled collection, the splendid full length figures of Her Majesty the Queen, in her Windsor uniform, and Prince Albert in his military costume, also the group of John Knox, reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

Tuesday, I am to be found at the ROYAL DIORAMA, Regent's Park, admiring the two splendid Paintings by Le Chevalier Bouton, representing *The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in Westminster Abbey*, and the *Interior of the Church of Santa Croce*, at Florence, with all the effect of light and shade, from noon till midnight. This Exhibition is always crowded with fashionables.

Wednesday, pop into the Cosmorama Rooms, to admire a most interesting Exhibition of East and West Indian Fruits of natural size, hanging to the branches and trunks of the trees, pictorially represented,—truly beautiful.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS's Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Thursday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, Strand, next to Somerset House, to witness *The Industrious Fleas* go through their extraordinary performance of dancing, riding, driving, &c. also two Fleas deciding an affair of honour sword in hand. I then visited the Royal Glass Working Exhibition, paid only sixpence for admission, and received an article in return.

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

On the same day, paid a delightful visit to *The Typorama*, Quadrant, Regent Street, a large and accurate modelled view of *The Undercliff of the Isle of White*, constructed by L. L. B. Ibbotson, sq.

Afterwards called at Emmett's, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute—also his much improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impaired to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

Went to visit some country cousins, found them at BLAKE's Tavern, King William Street, West Strand, quite surprised at the excellence of their fare, and cheapness of their beds, wines, spirits, and accommodation. On a Saturday evening there is a highly respectable convivial meeting held here, which commences at 9 o'clock.

"Why are my eyes like Balfe's Opera of *The Maid of Artois?*" "Because they've got the *Light of Other Days* in them!" through trying the efficacy of GRIMSTONE's Herbacious Eye Snuff—a 2s. 4d. & 1s. 3d. Canister restored my visual organs—quite a miracle—left off my spectacles.—Bought at 39, Broad-st. Bloomsbury—have a care to the inventor's signature—and that it is patronized by the Royal Family and authorized by her Majesty's Treasury on each canister.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, Murphy's Comedy of

Know Your Own Mind.

Millamour..MrANDERSON, Dashwould..MrC.MATHEWS,
Bygrove..MrF.MATTHEWS, Malvil..MrCOOPER,
CaptainBygrove,MrJ.VINING, SirHarryLovewit,MrWIGAN,
Sir John Millamour..MrGRANBY,
LadyBell...MadameVESTRIS, LadyJane..MissLEE,
MrsBromley..MrsORGER, MissNeville..MissE.MONTAGUE,
Madame La Rouge, Mrs TAYLEURE.

After which (11th Time) a New & Original Grand Comic, Romantic, Operatic Melo-Dramatic, Fairy Extravaganza, in 3 parts, entitled The

SLEEPING BEAUTY

IN THE WOOD.

Scenery by the **Messrs. Grieve. Music,** by **Mr J. H. Tully**

Part First.—Period, 1583.

The BOUDOIR of the FAIRY BANEFUL,
Nine Thousand Miles North of the Kingdom of Noland.
The Fairy Baneful, Mrs TAYLEURE,
Newspaper Imp, (*not "Printer's Devil,"*) Master FLIGHT,

BANQUET HALL,

In the CASTLE of the KING of NOLAND.
Thomas, surnamed "Noddy," (*King of Noland*) Mr J. BLAND,
Queen Serena, (*His Consort*) Mrs MACNAMARA,
Nurse, Mrs EMDEN, Gentleman Usher, Mr RIDGWAY,
BaronFactotum,(*Grand-Lord-High-Everything*)MrHARLEY

FAIRIES INVITED TO THE BANQUET.

TheFaryAntidota, MissLEE, TheFairyElegantina, MissPHILLIPS

Part Second.—Period, 1601.

VESTIBULE IN THE ROYAL CASTLE.
TheLadyAuroraAbigail(1*stofthe Bedchamber*)MissRAINFORTH

APARTMENT OF THE PRINCESS,

The Princess Is-a-belle,(*aged* 18, *all but an hour*)Mad.VESTRIS,
Madlle. LUIGIA BETTONI, and Mon. SAXONI,
Will Dance *A NEW PAS DE DEUX,*

Lobby & Lumber Room at the Top of the Castle.

THE STATE BED CHAMBER.

Part Third.—Period, 1701.

MAGIC FORREST.

LarryO'Clog,) *Wood Cutters,* (Mr BROUGHAM,
Colin Clump,) (Mr KERRIDGE,
Prince Perfect, Mr J. VINING,
Castle Gates. Moat and Drawbridge. Old Palace Yard,
And *RE*-view of a Company of "The Old Guards,"

A QUICK - SET Hedge,

And aMERRY Green Wood, in the SPRING time of the Year.

THE STATE BED CHAMBER, (exactly as before)
Person-ages "In Statu Quo"—Though a Century Older.
Ex-King of Noland. (aged 160) Mr J. BLAND,
Ex-Queen of ditto, (aged 150) Mrs MACNAMARA,
Lord Factotum, (aged 140) Mr HARLEY,
Lady Aurora Abigail, (aged 120) Miss RAINFORTH,
The Princess Is-a-belle, [still,] (aged 118) Mad. VESTRIS,
Illuminated Palace and Gardens, of the Fairy Antidota,

FETE AL - FRESCO.

La Cachoucha, by Mademoisellé MARIA LUIGIA BETTONI,
Departure of the Seven Faries, In a Patent

SAFETY "FLY"

Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

This Evening, the Play of The

Lady of Lyons.

Beausant (a rich gentleman of Lyons) Mr J. WEBSTER
Glavis, (his friend) Mr WEBSTER,
Col. (afterwards General) Damas, Mr STRICKLAND,
Monsieur Deschappelles, Mr WALDRON.
Capt. Gervais Mr HOWE, Capt. Dupont Mr WORRELL
Major Desmoulins, Mr CAULFIELD,
Landlord of the Golden Lion, Mr T. F. MATHEWS,
Gaspar, Mr O. SMITH,
Claude Melnotte, ... Mr MACREADY,
Madame Deschappelles, Mrs W. CLIFFORD,
Pauline Deschappelles, Miss H. FAUCIT.
(Her 2nd Appearance since her severe indisposition)
Widow Melnotte, Mrs STANLEY,
Janet, ... Miss GROVE.

In the course of the Evening, will be performed

Overture .... "Gustave," .... Auber.
Fantasia on the Concertina, Mr G. Case, (Case.)

After which, (16th Time) a New Farce, called

How to Pay the Rent.

Mr Miller, Mr STRICKLAND,
Morgan Rattler ..... Mr POWER,
Star-the-Glaze, Mr GREEN, Blowhard, Mr GOUGH,
Shooter.....Mr CLARK, Swell Billy....Mr CAULFIELD,
Snuffy, Mr SANTER, Porter, Mr BISHOP,
Mrs Conscience, Mrs W. CLIFFORD,
Kitty....Mrs F. MATTHEWS, Betty....Miss GROVE.

To conclude with, a Farce, in One Act, called

My Wife's Dentist

Sir John Beauville, Mr J. WEBSTER,
General Squadron, - Mr STRICKLAND,
David, Mr T. F. MATHEWS,
Dick Hazard, - Mr WRENCH,
Lady Letitia Beauville, Miss TRAVERS,
Rhoda, Mrs F. MATHEWS, Cicely, Miss GROVE,

To-morrow, Richelieu, How to Pay the Rent, and Hobbs, Dobbs, & Stubbs.

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